

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An image processing device comprising:

an isolated point detecting unit that detects isolated points from image data;
a counting unit that counts the isolated points detected by the isolated point detecting unit; and

an isolated point eliminating unit which eliminates the isolated points from the image data when a number of the counted isolated points reaches a threshold value or less.

2. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the threshold value is set at different values according to an image resolution.

3. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the image data is divided into several sections, and the isolated points are counted for each of the sections, and when the counted value reaches the threshold value or less for each of the sections respectively, the isolated points are eliminated from the image data in the section.

4. (Currently amended) The image processing device according to claim 3, wherein the image data is divided into smaller sections in a sub-scanning direction for each N lines, wherein N increases as the resolution of the image data becomes higher.

5. (Original) An image processing device comprising:

an isolated point detecting unit that detects isolated points from image data;
a register to which a threshold value is written;

a counter which counts the isolated points detected by the isolated point detecting unit, and outputs a signal when a number of the counted isolated points reaches the threshold value written in the register or less; and

an isolated point eliminating unit which eliminates the isolated points from the image data when the signal is input from the counter.

6. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 5, wherein the threshold value is written into the register according to a image resolution.

7. (Original) An image processing device comprising:

means for detecting isolated points from image data;

means for counting the isolated points detected by the means for detecting; and

means for eliminating the isolated points from the image data when a counted number of the isolated points reaches a threshold value or less.

8. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 7, further comprising means for setting different threshold value according to an image resolution of the image data.

9. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 7, further comprising:

means for dividing the image data into several sections;

wherein the isolated points are counted for each of the sections, and when the counted value reaches the threshold value or less in each of the sections, the isolated points are eliminated from the image data in the section.

10. (Currently amended) The image processing device according to claim 9, wherein the image data is divided into smaller sections in a sub-scanning direction for each N lines, wherein N increases as the image resolution of the image data becomes higher.

11. (Original) An image processing method comprising:

detecting isolated points from image data;

counting the detected isolated points;

comparing a number of the counted isolated points with a threshold value; and

eliminating the isolated points from the image data when the number of the isolated points reaches the threshold value or less.

12. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 11, further comprising:

determining an image resolution of the image data;

setting a threshold value according to the image resolution; and

comparing the number of the counted isolated points and the set threshold value.

13. (Original) An image processing method comprising:

dividing image data into several sections;

detecting isolated points in the image data for each of the divided sections;

counting a number of the detected isolated points for each of the divided sections; and

eliminating the isolated points from the image data for a section when the counted number of the isolated points reaches a threshold value or less for each of the divided sections.

14. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 13, further comprising:

determining an image resolution of the image data;

determining a number of sections to divide the image data according to the image resolution; and

dividing the image data into the determined number of sections.

15. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 7, further comprising means for storing the threshold value.

16. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 2, further comprising a register to store the threshold value.

17. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 5, wherein the image data is divided into several sections.

18. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 16, wherein the threshold value is stored in the register according to the image resolution.

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19. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 11, further comprising storing the threshold value.

20. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 13, further comprising storing the threshold value.